

Editorial

Dear colleagues,

It is with great pleasure, that I present you the first edition of the Newsletter for 2007. The Newsletter follows on the initiatives and efforts of the previous Secretariat, and here I take the opportunity to thank Dominique Planchenault for all his hard work over the past 10 years.

Our goal is to keep the NCs informed and updated on ongoing activities and upcoming events, and to set up this Newsletter as a forum for discussions. We consider the Newsletter as a means to strengthen the connections between the Steering Committee, the Secretariat and the NCs, as we presented in our Strategic Plan that was approved in Antalya.

The launching of the Newsletter

goes hand in hand with our website and the exchange of e-mails. However, the Newsletter can be considered as a specific communication media, which includes diverse information as a package and reaches you directly at your desk.

We plan to publish the Newsletter quarterly, hoping that it will make interesting material for editing the issues.

In this first issue, you will find material from the last Workshop in Antalya in September 2006 to the ERFP presentation in the Standing Committee of Zootechnics in 9 January 2007.

This is the first issue and as such there is lot that we can do for improvement.

For the improvement both of the format and the content of the Newsletter, we are wait-

ing for your comments. Moreover you are all invited to send your own material for publishing.

With this opportunity, the Steering Committee and the Secretariat would like to express to all of you their best wishes for a successful and fruitful 2007 and also for the activities of the European Regional Focal Point.

Andreas Georgoudis
ERFP-Secretary

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Special points of interest:

- New ERFP Call for Action— Deadline for proposals submission: 16 February 2007
- International Scientific Conference, Balice, 31 May—2 June 2007
- 13th Workshop of the NCs in Dublin—25 August 2007
- International Technical Conference, Interlaiken, 1—7 September 2007

ERFP presentation in the meeting of the Standing Commission on Zootechnics

In the meeting of the Working Group of the Standing Committee on Zootechnics in 9 January 2007, Mike Roper, chairman and Andreas Georgoudis, Secretary were invited in order to present to the official representatives of the member countries, the activities of the ERFP with view to the First International Conference on AnGR.

The ERFP presentation has been well appreciated by the members of the Working Group. It has been decided that the European-Caucasus region fact sheets including also the be European priori-

ties, are expected to be completed on March 2007 and will be included as an appendix to the SoW report.

These will be discussed in the Standing Committee on Zootechnics and will be forwarded to the EU member countries for discussion between the responsible persons of the Ministries of Agriculture and the NCs.

We consider all these developments as a step towards the enhancement of the collaboration between both ERFP and EU and the NCs with their Ministries of Agriculture, which is included in

the strategic goals of ERFP approved in our 12th Workshop in Antalya.

The ERFP presentation in Brussels can be downloaded from our website:

<http://www.rfp-europe.org>

Global Workshop for the NCs, 11-12 December 2006

ITWG session - 13-15 December 2006, FAO Headquarters, Rome

The **Global Workshop for the NCs for AnGR** was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome on 11-12 December 2006. The workshop preceded the Fourth Regular Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on AnGR. Its main objective was to facilitate exchange among NCs on experiences gathered after the finalization of the Country Reports, particularly with regard to the continuation of working groups (National Focal Point, National Consultative Committee) developed during the State of the World process, and the implementation of the strategic priorities identified during the State of the World process.

The **Fourth Session of the Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** was held at FAO Headquarters in Rome from 13 – 15 December 2006.

The Working Group was established by the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its Seventh Session in May 1997, in line with Conference Resolution 3/95. The Tenth Session of the Commission decided that the Working Group should hold a session during 2006, to review the first draft Report on the State of the World's Animal Genetic Resources, to review

the progress made in the preparation of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources including the preparation of the draft agenda, and funding and financial plans; as well as to review the progress of the Global Strategy for the Management of Farm Animal Genetic Resources and priorities for its further development.

Related documents can be downloaded, following the link:

<http://www.fao.org/ag/againfo/programmes/en/genetics/angrvent2006.html>

In ERFP website <http://www.rfp-europe.org> you can download the ERFP statement on Strategic Priorities for Action for Europe and also the report of the members of the WG representing the European region.

New Call for Action

Deadline for the submission of proposals is the 16th of February 2007.

The 12th Workshop of the National Coordinators for Animal Genetic Resources in Antalya agreed to launch a further call for proposals for projects which will be financially supported by the European Regional Focal Point for AnGR.

Priority will be given, as before, to proposals which specifically initiate or re-enforce ongoing collaborative activities in the field of

AnGR among groupings of National Co-ordinators in Europe to enhance the impact of their work or which strengthen the co-ordination role of the Regional Secretariat for the benefit of the ERFP as a whole.

Priority will also be given to projects which add value to proposals approved under EU Council Regulation (EC) No 870/2004

(GenRes) on the conservation, characterisation, collection and utilisation of genetic resources in agriculture.

Deadline for submission of projects is the 16 February 2007

The full call for action can be found in the ERFP website.

12th Workshop of the ERFP NCs, Antalya 16 September 2006



Photo credit: M.I. Soysal

The 12th Workshop for European In September, 16th the ERFP Annual Workshop was held in Antalya, Turkey. Dominique Planchenault presented his final report as Secretary of the ERFP, after successful work of 10 years. The ERFP has made good progress on a light and informal approach without formalisation. This approach has also allowed the ERFP to dedicate a high proportion of its total funding to Actions.

Andreas Georgoudis presented his ideas on the development of an ERP strategy, based in the context of the current ERFP direction and history. ERFP is getting to a new phase, where it is becoming increasingly recognised.

The work of the ongoing and completed ERFP projects has been presented. The detailed minutes of the Workshop can be downloaded from the ERFP website:

www.rfp-europe.org

Genetic Diversity of Farm Animal Breeds in Turkey, presentation in the 12th ERFP Annual Workshop, Antalya

During the 12th Workshop of the NCs in Antalya, the work supporting the special status of Turkish sheep breeds and described archaeological evidence that suggests many livestock breeds originate from Anatolia, was presented, by Prof. Inci Togan

The Turkish sheep population has declined by around 47% since 1980 and the market economy poses the largest threat. Also, many of the state run farms hold valuable resources no longer held by mainstream industry. Therefore, should Government reduce support for these state farms, there is a risk of losing a swathe of

valuable genetic diversity. The study found that all domesticated livestock breeds are not likely to have originated from one event but valuable indicators were found for the 'route map' of some breeds. The study also provided evidence to support conservation of the Daglıç breed on the basis of this. The genetic profiling work found that although in most cases, the phenotype is a good guide to an animal's genotype, there is not always a direct relationship.

It was concluded that the loss of genetic diversity in Turkey's livestock breeds is a big concern and the results

of this work will support a proposal to establish a conservation centre in the Balkans or Anatolia to conserve Native breeds.

For more info contact:

Prof. Inci Togan, Dept. of Biology, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, Togan@metu.edu.tr

ERFP project- Development of a common methodology to evaluate and monitor the population-genetic status of farm animal breeds in Europe

The first Workshop of the ERFP project held in December 11, 2006, in Rome. The overall goal of this meeting was to exchange knowledge information and experience among participants regarding indicators design for Animal Genetic Resources, and to identify key directions, as well as working procedures for successful gathering of work for the baseline of the Project. During the meeting a fruitful discussion was developed that touched all aspects

of the agenda on different ways. Sreten Andonov presented current status and basic introduction of the biodiversity indicator development under CBD and SEBI 2010 processes, with some general basic principles of the indicator's structure and content. Jack Windig presented the Netherlands' experience developing indicators for animal and crop production. Besides that it was stressed that some possible indicator can be interaction

between breeds and particular landscape. The participants agreed to use the document produced by the Netherlands as a starting point for proceeding. The discussion will continue between the members of the project group by e-mail. These ideas should be elaborated by the end of February, 2007. Next Workshop will be organized in Skopje on April–May 2007.

For further information:
sandonov@zf.ukim.edu.mk

ERFP project - Heritage sheep

The ERFP project Heritage Sheep has been completed and during the 12th Workshop of the NCs in Antalya Amanda Carson, from UK Sheep Trust, gave an overview of the final report structure and summarised the recommendations for future action. The objectives of the ERFP project was to identify European heritage sheep breeds and establish the network and information

requirements for their *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation. The project involved a network of contact points in 14 European Countries, which supplied information on identification of Heritage Breeds, population data and genetic information. This network also provided information on the existing National policies for the development and conservation of Heritage Sheep Breeds

Geographic Endemism is a feature of Heritage Sheep Breeds and exotic diseases represent a particular threat to geographically isolated populations. Bluetongue is one of the topical threats faced by Heritage Sheep Breeds and Amanda gave a brief summary of the current European situation.

For further information:
a.carson@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk

Future meetings

- In Spring 2007, the following meetings of the on going ERFP project are planned:

1. Development of indicators, April - May 2007, Skopje

2. Brachycerus cattle, April 2007, Bled

- International Scientific Conference: Conservation of AnGR in Poland and in Europe—achievements and dilemmas, 31 May –2 June 2007, Balice, Poland. More info: <http://www.izoo.krakow.pl/index.php?sw=news,konferencja2006>

akawecka@izoo.krakow

- The 13th Annual Meeting of the NCs for AnGR will be held in Dublin in 25.08.2007. On Friday, 24.08, the project coordinators will have some technical meetings. Please reserve the days, as it is probably that the meeting will start at the afternoon of Thursday 23.08 with a seminar for the NCs organized by the EAAP-WG_AnGR. Details on the seminar and the draft agenda will be announced soon, in order to make your travel plans.

ERFP Steering Committee:

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Drago Kompan, SLO
Arunas Svitojus, LT
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The ERFP website is updated regularly.

New updates in www.rfp-europe.org :

[Policy implications from Applying Patent Law in Animal Breeding](#) by Morten Walloe Tvedt

Council Regulation 870/04 - Results of the 2nd call

The full list of proposals approved under the 2nd Call of GENRES EU Regulation 870/04 are:

AGRI GEN RES 067, A global view of livestock biodiversity and conservation, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), Largo A. Gemelli 1, 29100 Milan, Italy

AGRI GEN RES 061, Avena genetic resources for quality in human consumption, Federal Centre for Breeding Research on Cultivated Plants (BAZ), Neuer Weg 22/23 06484 Quedlinburg, Germany

AGRI GEN RES 057, An integrated European In Situ Management workplan: Implementing genetic reserves and On Farm concepts, Federal Centre for Breeding Research on Cultivated Plants (BAZ), Neuer Weg 22/23 06484 Quedlin-

burg, Germany

AGRI GEN RES 049, Genotyping for the conservation and valorization of European rice germplasm, Parco Tecnologico Padano Foundation (FPTP), Via Einstein - Località Cascina Codazza, 26900 Lodi, Italy

AGRI GEN RES 071, RIBESCO - Core collection of Northern European gene pool of Ribes, MTT Agrifood Research Finland (MTT), 31600 Jokioinen, Finland

AGRI GEN RES 050, Vegetative Allium, Europe's Core Collection, safe and sound, Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Correnstr. 3, 06466 Gatersleben, Germany

AGRI GEN RES 036 European small berries genetic resources Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), 147 rue de l'Université,

What does the BRG do out of ERFP secretariat?

The conference on the environment and sustainable development, which President Chirac will chair in early February 2007, will confirm the importance France attaches to the major environmental issues, including climate change and genetic resources, and to their governance. It will bring together leading figures from the worlds of politics and science and from civil society and inject high-level political momentum into this essential global action.

At national level, BRG is directly involved in this preparation and some modifications could be proposed in its structure and its organisation. However, as you see all over the world, the topic of biodiversity is in the forefront of today's news. This consideration is particularly true for the animal genetic resources. The ERFP must preserve its actual dynamism and its action in the long term.

We cannot define dynamism by last actions only. The various European National Coordinators created the ERFP and the ERFP was able to stimulate a similar action with the East European countries. In the frame of Global Strategy, this action must continue, as an example, helping to the emergence of other Regional Focal

Points as in Africa or in the Middle-East. ERFP is not an old blind lady who crosses the street without looking to other countries. We are really in a true country driven process which needs to be led. This apparent paradox is very funny. The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

The long-term actions are numerous. The objective is not to present a long list but to start the work to take the biodiversity into account. The agricultural ecosystems become every day more and more significant elements of the biodiversity. The species and breeds conservation cannot only be considered, any more, under the prism of the cryopreservation. In other words, we cannot preserve only for preserving. Now, we have to preserve in order to manage our biodiversity but, also, we have first to manage our breeds in link with the various agro ecosystems to preserve our biodiversity. Are we ready to do this? Do we have all the tools for that? Can we work again together? Can we, with the European Union, move in this direction?

Obviously, it is easier to propose a questions list than answers

Servant!

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